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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/644,026	08/20/2003	Michio Arai	66361-060-7	3845
25269	7590	12/29/2006	EXAMINER	
DYKEMA GOSSETT PLLC FRANKLIN SQUARE, THIRD FLOOR WEST 1300 I STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20005			RUDDOCK, ULA CORINNA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1771	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		12/29/2006	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/644,026	ARAI, MICHIO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ula C. Ruddock	1771	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 3-5 and 7 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 3-5, 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Examiner has carefully considered Applicant's amendment and accompanying remarks filed October 3, 2006.

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. Claims 3-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 58-083420 (JP '420) in view of Cordova et al. (US 6,276,254) and Li et al. (US 5,160,776) and Rothrock et al. (US 6,081,929). JP '420 discloses a safety helmet comprising an inner and outer layer having an epoxy resin having glass fibers (i.e. fiber reinforced panels). The inner layer is made of three layers of non-woven fabric having resin coated between the layers to make an integral resin immersed non-woven fabric. JP '420 discloses the claimed invention except for the teaching that a net member is located between the first and second nonwoven layers, that the openings of the net have sides between 2 and 45 mm in length, that the strands have diameters of between 0.1 and 4mm, and that there is another net member located between said second and third nonwoven layers.

Cordova et al. (US 6,276,254) disclose armor systems used in helmets (col 1, ln 56). The armor system comprises first and second layers. The first layer comprises a plurality of networks selected from the group consisting of an uncoated nonwoven network of randomly oriented fibers and an uncoated knitted, preferably tightly network of fibers. The second layer comprises a plurality of networks selected from the group consisting of a loosely woven network of fibers, an

open knitted network of fibers, a braided network of fibers, and a nonwoven network of oriented fibers (col 3, ln 33-42). It should be noted that the Examiner is equating Cordova's open knitted network of fibers to a scrim. The fibers can be thermoplastic (i.e. polyester and polyolefins) and thermosetting (i.e. phenolics and epoxies) col 5, ln 22-25). In another embodiment, the first layer can comprise a plurality of networks selected from the group consisting of an uncoated nonwoven network of randomly oriented fibers and an uncoated, open knitted network of fibers (col 10, ln 48-52).

Rothrock et al. (US 6,081,929) disclose an impact protection helmet comprising a shell constructed from a thermoset resin and filled with fiberglass (i.e. fiber-reinforced plastic panel) (col 5, ln 26-28) and a screen comprising a mesh in a grid of about 0.07 inch spacing, i.e. 1.78 mm, which can be rounded up to "2" to meet Applicant's lower limit. (col 7, ln 33-35).

Li et al. (US 5,160,776) disclose a ballistic resistant composite article for use in helmets (col 1, ln 15). The article comprises organic filaments (col 4, ln 62) which can have a diameter of .01 cm, i.e. .1 mm (col 4, ln 4-6).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have used Cordova's open knitted thermosetting or thermoplastic fibers in between the first and second nonwoven layers of the intermediate layer of JP '420, motivated by the desire to create a helmet having increased strength and puncture resistance.

It also would have been obvious to have used Rothrock's disclosure of almost 2 mm grid spacing and Li's filament diameter of 0.1 mm in the net material of JP '420 and Cordova, motivated by the desire to create a net material that has increased dimensional stability and durability.

Finally, it would have been obvious to have added a second net layer to be placed between the second and third nonwoven layer, since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8. In the present invention, one would have been motivated by the desire to create a laminate that has enhanced strength and durability.

Rejection is maintained.

4. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 58-083420 (JP '420), Cordova et al. (US 6,276,254), Li et al. (US 5,160,776), and Rothrock et al. (US 6,081,929), as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Beretta (US 5,053,264). JP' 420, Cordova et al., Li et al., and Rothrock et al., disclose the claimed invention except for the teaching that the net has protrusions on opposite sides thereof.

Beretta (US 5,053,264) discloses a plastic material net structure having high impact resistance (col 5, ln 55; col 6, ln 27-28). The net structure has node elements which protrude from both faces of the net (claims 3 and 5). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have made the net material of JP' 420, Cordova et al., Li et al., and Rothrock et al. have protrusions on both faces of the net as disclosed by Beretta, motivated by the desire to create a laminate that has increased impact resistance.

Rejection is maintained.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed October 3, 2006, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive for the reasons set forth. Applicant argues that the rejections are without merit and that

the combination of patent disclosures is clearly based on hindsight evaluation of the present application. The Examiner recognizes that references cannot be arbitrarily combined and there must be some reason why one skilled in the art would be motivated to make the proposed combination of primary and secondary references. *In re Nomiya*, 184 USPQ 607 (CCPA 1975). The references are evaluated by what they suggest to one versed in the art, rather than by their specific disclosures. *In re Bozek*, 163 USPQ 545 (CCPA) 1969. In this case, the JP '420, Cordova et al., Li et al., and Rothrock et al. references are all drawn to analogous subject matter (i.e. protective helmets). Therefore, motivation exists to combine the references. In response to Applicant's argument that the Examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, the motivation used to combine the references takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made and did not include knowledge gleaned only from Applicant's disclosure. Therefore, the rejections are maintained.

Conclusion

6. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be

calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ula C. Ruddock whose telephone number is 571-272-1481. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel H. Morris can be reached on 571-272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

UCR *UCR*

Ula Ruddock
Ula C. Ruddock
Primary Examiner
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